

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant first wishes to thank Examiner Stokes for her indication of allowable subject matter. Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claim 2 has been cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 1, and 3 - 29 have been amended. Claim 29 was previously allowed. Claims 1, and 3 - 29 remain in the application.

The present invention features a one-piece osteotome useful for performing several of the multiple steps required to prepare an osteotomy (i.e., a "hole") for receiving a dental implant. The novel, one-piece tool contains multiple working sections, each of these sections being specifically designed to perform a distinct operation. The sections typically include a drill portion, a locator tip, a crestal reducer portion, and a lateral redirector portion within the single tool. This allows a practitioner to selectively perform multiple operations without replacing the tool in the hand piece. This ensures

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maximum efficiency and ensures that the various functional portions of the tool are compatible with one another.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 - 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,364,662 for DIAMOND-LIKE CARBON COATED DENTAL INSTRUMENT, issued April 2, 2002 to Ajay Kumar. The Examiner states that KUMAR "discloses a single, one-piece, multifunctional rotary bit 10 for a drilling and cutting system..." KUMAR most assuredly DOES NOT disclose or suggest "a one-piece, multifunctional rotary bit." Rather, KUMAR discloses "a tool bit or dental instrument 10" [column 5, lines 9 - 10]. KUMAR elsewhere discloses a "hard carbon coated dental threadformer or tapping bit 10'" (column 10, lines 30 - 31), and "a hard carbon coated dental counterbore or countersink 10'" (column 10, lines 55 - 56). These devices (i.e., drill 10, threadformer 10' and counterbore 10') are completely separate, individual tool bits. Nowhere does KUMAR either teach or suggest that the functions of two or more of these tools may be combined into a single instrument. In point of fact, KUMAR teaches away from Applicant's novel, multi-functional tool wherein the functions of two, three, or more tools described by

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KUMAR are combined. Certainly there is no anticipation by KUMAR of Applicant's novel design.

Claims 1, 4 - 6, and 9 - 28 have been amended to remove functional language and more clearly recite the novel structure of Applicant's invention.

The amendments of independent claims 1 and 15 are believed to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by KUMAR. Claims 4 - 6 and 9 - 14 depending from claim 1, and claims 16 - 28, depending from claim 15, are likewise believed allowable because of the respective amendments to claims 1 and 15.

Claims 3 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over KUMAR. The amendment of claim 15 from which claim 17 depends is believed to overcome the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over KUMAR.

Applicant believes that claims 1, and 3 - 29 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that

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claims 1, and 3 - 29 be allowed and the application passed
to issue.

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On August 17, 2007
(Date of Deposit)

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